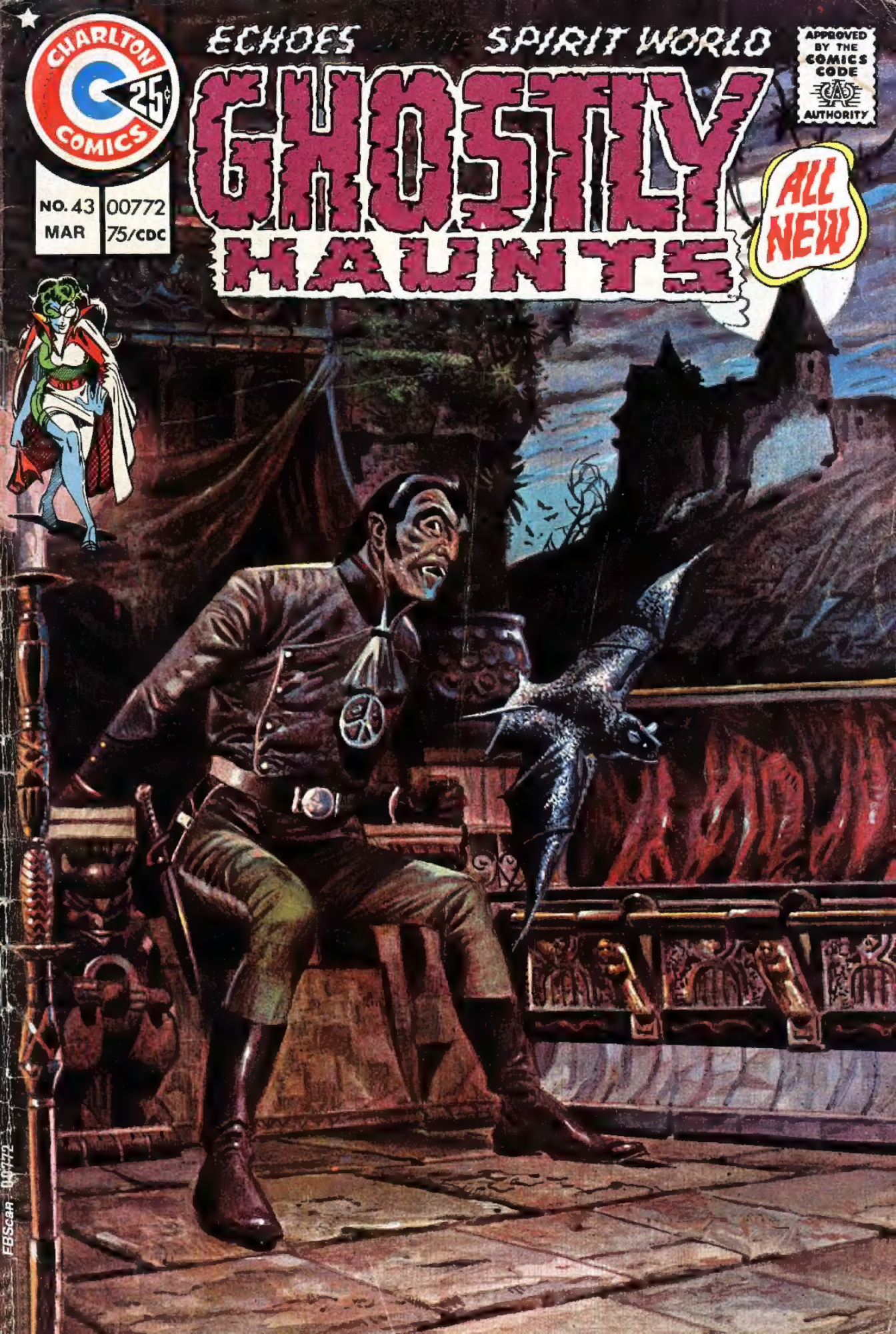
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The Simple Advice That Changed Bob's Body...and his Entire Life!

ROCKY, HOW DID YOU DEVELOP SUCH MUSCLES? YOU USED TO BE SO SKINNY AND WEAK LOOKING!
USED TO BE, IS RIGHT! I DID SOMETHING ABOUT THE SHAPE I WAS IN. YOU SHOULD TOO, BOB!
BEACH CLUB

I'D LIKE TO - BUT HOW DO I GO ABOUT IT? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SIMPLE - YOU SEND FOR JOE WEIDER'S BOOKLET AND GET ALL THE TRUE FACTS ON BODYBUILDING FROM THE WORLD'S BEST EXPERT! HIS METHOD IS SIMPLE AND FAST!

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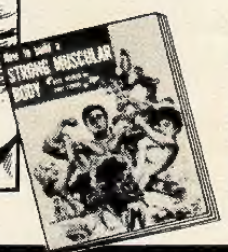
RIGHT NOW — before another second passes by — fill out and mail the coupon below. Rush it with 25¢ to us TODAY! In return we'll rush you, "How To Build A Strong Muscular Body".



you must ACT NOW! Your "New Body" and your future happiness could depend on this Booklet!

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ARE YOU A LITTLE LIKE BOB, WISHING FOR A BETTER BUILT BODY? STOP WISHING AND ACT! DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT TODAY — SEND FOR JOE WEIDER'S FANTASTIC BOOKLET — RIGHT NOW!

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SEND FOR YOUR COPY

Joe Weider, Dept: 84 45C
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O.K. Joe — mail me a copy of "How To Build A Strong Muscular Body". I will follow your advice on bodybuilding. I enclosed 25¢ to cover the cost of postage and mailing. ☐ RUSH ☐ REGULAR MAIL

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Address .....
City ..... State ..... Zip .....

INVITATION

POOR OLD MISS NETHERWOOD JUST COULDN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ONCE ELEGANT NEIGHBORHOOD HAD CHANGED... WHEN SHE WAS A GIRL BACK BEFORE WORLD WAR I, THE GREAT TOWN HOUSES HAD BLAZED WITH LIGHT, COACHMEN WAITED WITH THEIR SHINING CARRIAGES AND SLEEK HORSES ....AND LETITIA NETHERWOOD HAD BEEN THE BELLE OF NEW YORK!

NOW, MISS NETHERWOOD WAS AN OLD, OLD LADY... WALKING THE DANGEROUS, DARK STREETS.... UNAWARE, IT SEEMED, OF THE HUMAN BEASTS OF PREY WHO PROWLED THE NIGHT, SLAVERING FOR A HELPLESS VICTIM SUCH AS SHE!

D-6527

EDITOR... GEORGE WILDMAN
WRITER... HIRAM WALKER
ARTIST... PAT BOYETTE

THERE'S THE OLD LADY NOW, JEEZ, IF THEY'RE REAL DIAMONDS....

MISS NETHERWOOD IS PROWLING AGAIN! THE LIEUTENANT TOLD ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER!

SHE'S BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS...YET NO ONE EVER BOTHERED HER!

LET HER GO! THAT JUNK SHE WEARS PROBABLY AIN'T REAL ANYHOW!

GHOSTLY HAUNTS Vol. 7, No. 43, March, 1975,

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THERE THEY ARE, THE RASCALS! THEY FOLLOWED ME HOME! THEIR KIND NEVER CHANGES!
THEY'RE WATCHING THE HOUSE...
LOOK...IT'S REAL OLD-FASHIONED INSIDE! GAS LIGHTING AN' ALL!
AM I SEEIN' STRAIGHT, TED? THAT AIN'T THE OLD BROAD!
THIS CHICK IS YOUNG... AN' THE DIAMONDS SHE'S WEARIN' AIN'T FAKE, OZZIE!
WHACK
UUGGH!
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF HITTIN' ME WITH THAT CLUB, PIG?
I DIDN'T HIT YOU, PUNK....BUT I MAY IF YOU DON'T GET OFF MY BEAT! STAY AWAY FROM MISS NETHERWOOD'S HOUSE!

SHE'S GOT A RADIO?
CAN'T BE...SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ELECTRICITY IN THERE! I'LL BET SHE'S GOT AN OLD PHONOGRAPH!
CHARLESTON! CHARLESTON! EVERYBODY'S DOING THE CHARLESTON!
MISS NETHERWOOD ...DANCING TO A RECORD ON AN OLD-FASHIONED HAND-CRANKED GRAMOPHONE!
AS PATROLMAN DINO MARCHETTI WATCHED, SOMETHING STRANGE SEEMED TO HAPPEN....
I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP LATELY.... I'M IMAGINING THINGS!
OFFICER MARCHETTI WILL BE SHOCKED!
I'D BETTER GO AND SEE HOW MY GUESTS ARE BEHAVING!
I DID IMAGINE IT! THE OLD LADY LOOKS THE SAME AS EVER NOW!

NEXT EVENING, OLD MISS NETHERWOOD WAS OUT AGAIN! OFFICER MARCHETTI WATCHED HER PASS, TIPPING HIS CAP AND BOWING SLIGHTLY.....

LOVELY EVENING, MISS NETHERWOOD, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT ALONE!

YOU MUSTN'T WORRY ABOUT ME, OFFICER. I'M PERFECTLY SAFE.

WELL.... I'LL BE AROUND TO SAY HELLO ANYHOW.

BUT THERE WAS A FIRE ON THE NEXT STREET AND OFFICER MARCHETTI WAS NEEDED THERE!

NOW....WHERE ARE THOSE DARLING BOYS?

THERE THEY ARE....THE POOR BOYS NEED *HELP!*

OZZIE AND TED FOLLOWED MISS NETHERWOOD...THEY KNEW THE FUZZ WOULD BE AT THE FIRE...THEY'D HAVE TIME FOR WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND!

C'MON, TED....WE GOTTA GET INSIDE WHEN SHE OPENS THE DOOR WITH HER KEY!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE.

HORROR RECORD 95¢

Terrifying, Horrible sounds. Screams, moans, banshees, haunted houses, colonial thunderstorms, eerie, supernatural, horrible monsters and creatures, hideous, wild animals, maniacal laughter, many more. Long play 33 RPM record. For parties, supernatural effects, Halloween.
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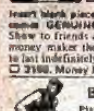

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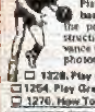

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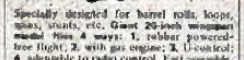

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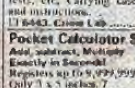

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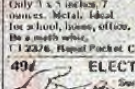

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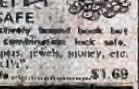

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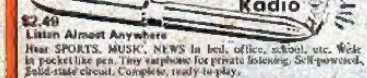

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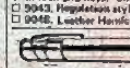

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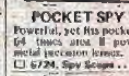

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MISS NETHERWOOD ENTERED...APPARENTLY HER OLD EARS TOO DEAF TO CATCH THE FURTIVE SOUNDS OF THE PROWLERS WHO SCURRIED IN BEHIND HER.
DUM DE DUM DUM....LET'S SEE.... I'LL PLAY THAT AL JOLSON RECORD...
HEY, OZZIE, YA THINK.....
SSSSHHHH....THE YOUNG CHICK WE SAW MIGHT HEAR US!
SWANEE SWANEE HOW I LOVE YA....
HOT DIGGETY! IT'LL BE A FABULOUS PARTY TONIGHT!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME TO DANCE, SIR? IT'S RUDE TO COME TO A PARTY AND NOT ASK THE HOSTESS TO DANCE!
HUH? RUDE?
UH...I DUNNO HOW TO DANCE THIS WAY, MA'AM!
GO AHEAD, OZZIE... ...CASE THE GOODIES!
5

YOU SEE? IT ISN'T AT ALL DIFFICULT, IS IT?
THOSE ARE REAL DIAMOND EARRINGS, AREN'T THEY?
OH, YES.... DADDY GAVE THEM TO ME WHEN MR. ROOSEVELT WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT.... THAT'S THE FIRST MR. ROOSEVELT, OF COURSE!
THE RECORD ENDED! MISS NETHERWOOD BECKONED TO TED AND...
THIS IS A VERY FINE VINTAGE, GENTLEMEN. WE'LL DRINK A TOAST, THEN WE THREE WILL JOIN THE OTHERS DOWNSTAIRS.
A TOAST.... TO OUR PARTY!
I WANT YOU TO MEET MY OTHER FRIENDS, GENTLEMEN!
'S OKAY WITH ME, LADY! WOW.... WHAT WAS IN THAT STUFF YA GAVE US?

MEANWHILE...OFFICER MARCHETTI HAD HELPED GET A MOTHER AND HER BABY OUT OF THE BURNING BUILDING, WROTE HIS REPORT, AND...

THE PUNKS WERE HANGING AROUND EARLIER...NOW THEY'RE GONE...I WONDER IF MISS NETHERWOOD GOT HOME SAFELY!

I YANKED THE DOORPULL THEN I KNOCKED HARD ENOUGH TO WAKE THE DEAD... THE DOOR'S AJAR... I'M GOING IN!

THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR...THE POLICEMAN WAS AWED BY THE VERY CLEAN BUT FADED ELEGANCE OF THE FURNISHINGS AS HE SEARCHED FOR THE OLD LADY!

MISS NETHERWOOD?

PLEASE COME DOWN HERE, OFFICER!

WHEN THE GASLIGHTS WERE TURNED BRIGHT, THE GARISH LIGHT SHOWED A MACABRE SCENE! THE "PARTY" HAD BEEN GOING FOR A HALF-CENTURY...AND SOME GUESTS LOOKED A LITTLE "TIRED" BUT LETITIA NETHERWOOD WAS AS YOUNG AS EVER...AND HER TWO MOST RECENT GUESTS LOOKED CONTENT...

THEY'RE ALL DEAD... THE OLD LADY IS YOUNG AGAIN AND THE PUNKS WHO WANTED TO ROB HER LOST THE ONLY THING THEY EVER HAD THAT WAS WORTH ANYTHING ...THEIR LIVES!

BVD

Dear Editor:

I was just strolling along the boardwalk in Ocean City, Md., after swimming with my folks and I asked my mother to buy me something to read that night. We went into a store and I found the comic book rack.

Usually, I buy a comic book that has some really scary stories in it. I looked at the cover of *Ghostly Haunts* #40 and it looked back at me. Since I like books with frightening covers, I picked up *GH* #40 and looked inside. The art work was great, so I asked my mother to get it for me.

That night, I enjoyed some really scary stories. The first story in this issue was called "The Beast In All Men" and it was really cool! The second story was called "The Wastrel" and it was even scarier! By the way, what does *Wastrel* mean? Please send me a letter answering all my questions if you have time. The third story was titled "The Game Keeper" and it was the scariest of all!

This is the first Charlton comic book I ever read, but from now on it will be the only kind of comics I'll buy. Who's the blue-faced girl who introduces the stories? Anyway, keep up the good work!

Yours truly,
Scott Rogers

Let me introduce myself to begin with, Scott. I'm Winnie the Witch, your guide through the *Ghostly Haunts* here at Charlton. As you see, I'm not answering your letter personally but here on *GH*'s new letter page.

I'm really delighted you liked *Ghostly Haunts* #40. The cover you liked so much that looked back at you was done by one of the finest artist-writers in the business. He's Tom Sutton and Tom wrote and illustrated "The Game Keeper".

I'm glad you've become a Charlton fan. We're making new friends all the time and we'll do all we can to keep you in our corner. P.S. A 'wastrel' is an idler, he throws his money away, and he *wastes* his talents and his whole life.

Dear Winnie the Witch:

I just finished *Ghostly Haunts* #40 and I enjoyed it very much. I have one question. Don't you ever wear different clothes, like a bathing suit once in awhile or some other appropriate outfit? I think you're really cool but I'd like to see you involved in a story once in awhile.

Ghostly Haunts is a great comic. I liked #40 very much. Even though there were no bylines on the first story, "The Beast In All Men", I recognize the art of Steve Ditko. Steve did a terrific job on this. I especially liked the way he drew the mutants in this yarn. Steve illustrated the story perfectly and made the story go. By the way, who did the story. It was excellent.

I love Baron Weirwulf but I'd seen this one page introduction before in one of the other Charlton mags. I hope we see more of the Baron in new material. Perhaps the Baron himself will be a principal in a future yarn.

Now, we come to what I really enjoyed. "Ghost Writers", the letter page, is what Charlton comics have needed for a long, long time. By the way, you only printed letters that were in favor of the stories and art work. Don't you get any letters from readers who didn't like what they read?

"The Wastrel" was probably a good story but it wasn't spooky enough to turn me on. I just didn't dig the whole thing.

Now, "The Game Keeper" was really good. The byline said art and script by Tom Sutton and he did a really weird job on it. The backgrounds were creepy, the characters were really 'yuucchh' and the ending was really sick. All in all, a masterpiece, Mr. Sutton! And, surprise! A bonus at the end of the book, an original Baron Weirwulf single page explaining the origin of the werewolf and vampire legends. According to the Baron, people have believed in them for a long, long time and as they say "where there's smoke there's fire" so maybe they just aren't legends after all.

Sincerely,
Joel Prentz
Tampa, Fla.

I take it you like the book but it was a little hard to tell how you felt about Tom Sutton's great story, "The Game Keeper". It seems that you *like* sick endings? Re: your remarks about favorable and unfavorable letters, yes, I do get an occasional fan who hates Charlton, hates our artists, and hates our writers. I don't think our fans would really like to read some of these letters. One or two of our readers make a career out of dissecting each issue, telling me what idiots everyone connected with the magazines are. I'm perfectly willing to publish valid critiques, even those that are unfavorable but I won't circulate the opinions of fanatics eager to display their expertise by taking my magazine apart.

Keep writing, fans. And don't be afraid to tell me if you don't like a story. I promise to print your letters as long as the opinions are rational and legitimate.

***

HELLO! HELLO! WELCOME! ALL OF YOU! WELL, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME! I HAVE A VERY SPECIAL STORY TO TELL YOU... SO SETTLE IN AND LISTEN TO THE TALE OF A GIRL KNOWN ONLY AS...
FLORAL!
LONG AGO AND FAR, FAR AWAY IN A LAND WHOSE NAME HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN, A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LAY IN A BOSKY DELL... SILENTLY, AS STILL AS DEATH... THEN... SHE AWAKENED...
OOOHHHH
D-6318

HOW... HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN ASLEEP..? I DON'T REMEMBER THIS PLACE... HOW DID I GET HERE..?
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME? MY CLOTHES ARE TORN... SOILED... PERHAPS SOME WATER WOULD CLEAR MY HEAD...
SLOWLY, SLOWLY SHE GAINED HER FEET AND STUMBLED TO A GLISTENING BROOK NEARBY...
LORD HELP ME... I JUST REALIZED...
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO I AM...
AND SHE DRANK... BUT IN HER CONFUSED STATE SHE DID NOT NOTICE THE APPROACH OF A HUNTING PARTY OF THE BARON'S MEN...
LO! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

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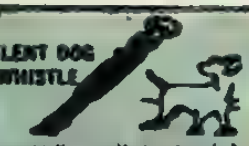

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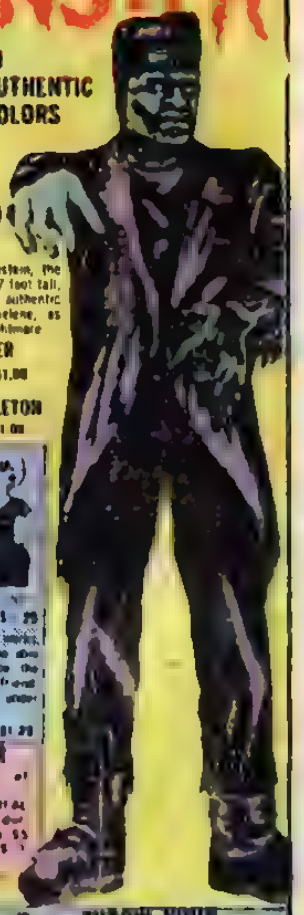

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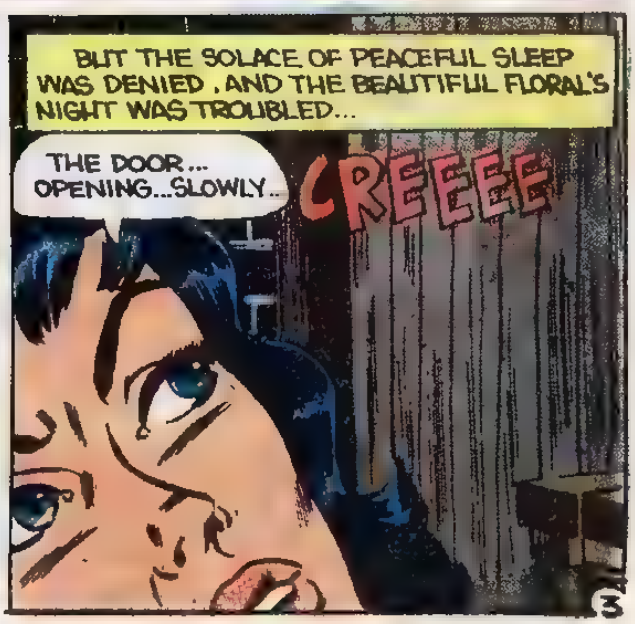
WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE? THESE FORESTS BELONG TO THE CROWN...
I..DON'T KNOW, SIR. I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...

I THINK SHE'S... YOU KNOW... A LITTLE DAFT!
DAFT OR NO, SHE'LL MAKE A FINE SCULLERY MAID FOR THE BARONESS!

AND SO IT HAPPENED THAT SHE WAS TAKEN TO THE CASTLE OF THE BARON AND MADE TO WORK AS A KITCHEN SLAVE... SHE HAD NO NAME... SO THEY CALLED HER FLORAL, AFTER THE FLOWERS SHE WORE IN HER HAIR...
YOU HAVE TOILED WELL TODAY, FLORAL. NOW YOU MAY RETIRE. I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE YOU WILL SLEEP.

THEY SAY I AM QUITE MAD... COULD THIS BE TRUE..?
OHHH! I'M SO TIRED ...SO SLEEPY...


BUT THE SOLACE OF PEACEFUL SLEEP WAS DENIED, AND THE BEAUTIFUL FLORAL'S NIGHT WAS TROUBLED...
THE DOOR... OPENING... SLOWLY..
CREEEE

TINY PEOPLE! LIKE LITTLE ELVES!!
AYE! ELVES WE ARE, AND FULL WELL YOU KNOW IT!
YES! THIS IS THE ONE, ALL RIGHT! WE KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!
NO! NO! STAY BACK! I'VE DONE NOTHING TO YOU...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! I CAN FEEL IT!
NONSENSE! THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE!
NO! YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL ME APART! Noooooo!
WHY DOES SHE SCREAM SO? WHAT IS WRONG?
NO...NO...PLEASE STOP... I'VE DONE NOTHING... STOP... STOP...
WHEN FLORAL THOUGHT SHE COULD STAND NO MORE, THEY WERE GONE...AS SUDDENLY AS THEY CAME!
WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED? IT SEEMED SO REAL...
BUT IT'S OVER...JUST A DREAM...PERHAPS IT IS AS THEY SAY...I'M MAD...

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

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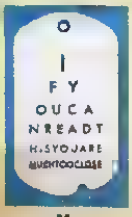

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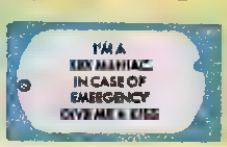

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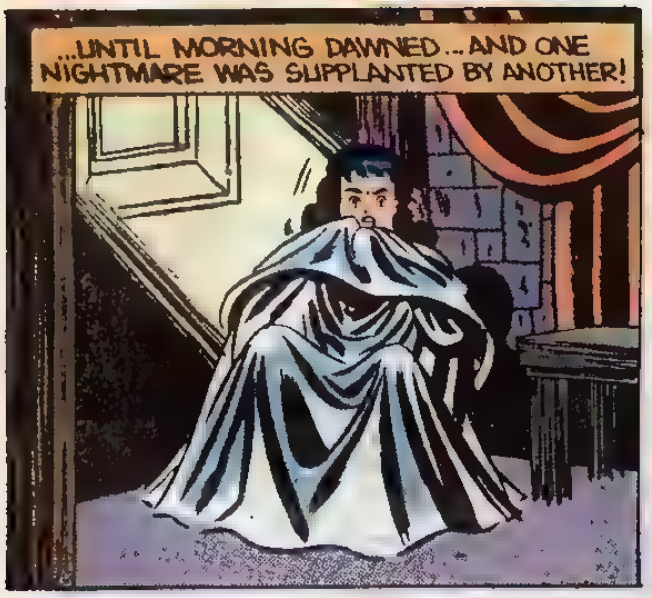
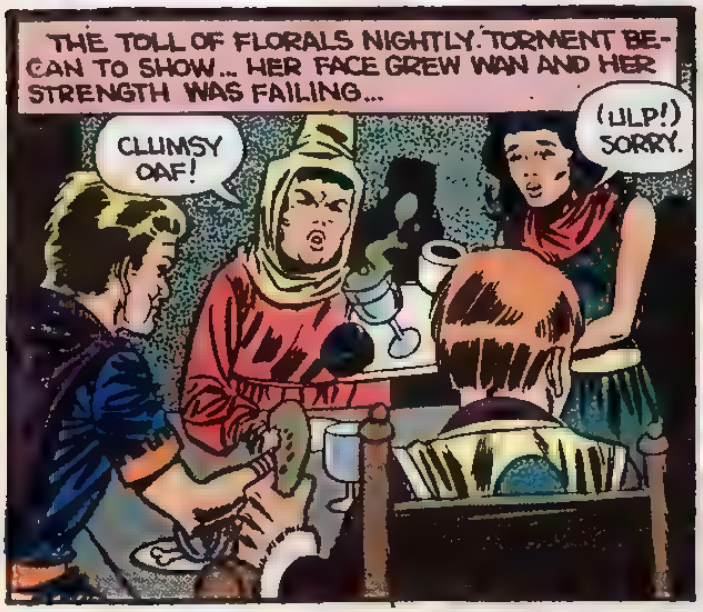
MORNING CAME AT LAST...BUT THE BRIGHT SUN COULD NOT DISPEL THE SHADOWS DEEP WITHIN THE HEART OF THE UNFORTUNATE FLORAL...
JUST A DREAM...I KNOW IT WAS...BUT IT SEEMED SO REAL!
LIKE HUNDREDS OF THEM... TEARING AT ME...
YOU! FLORAL! MORE ALE! AND QUICKLY!
YES, SIR...
NOW GO DOWN AND SCRUB THE WINE CELLAR 'TIL IT GLEAMS!
THE WINE CELLARS! VAST AND CAVERNOUS, ENCRUSTED WITH YEARS OF SCUM! THE SUN CROSSED THE SKY AND SET BEFORE THE TASK WAS DONE. FLORAL STOOD IN DARKNESS...ANOTHER DAY WAS AT AN END.
IT WILL BE GOOD TO SLEEP TONIGHT.
MAY I DREAM OF FORESTS AND FIELDS...THE BEAUTIFUL GLADE IN WHICH I AWOKE...

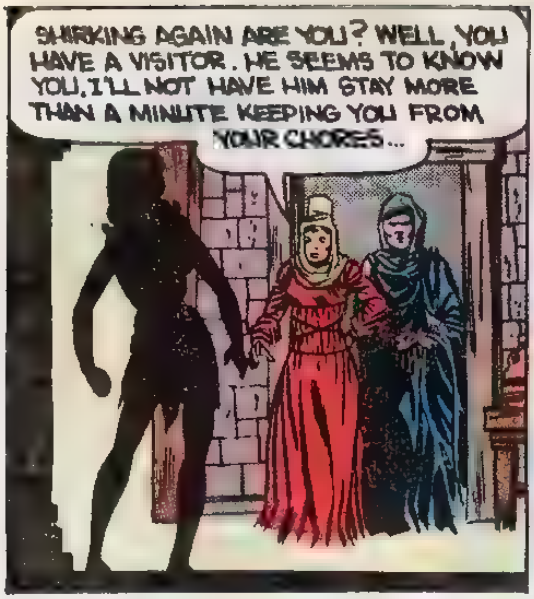
BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE...NOT THAT NIGHT OR ANY NIGHT FOLLOWING... FOR AS THE WEEKS PASSED INTO MONTHS THE SAME DREAM AROSE TO HAUNT HER...ELVES...DISTORTED... PULLING, YANKING, AS THOUGH TRYING TO WRENCH HER ASUNDER...


...UNTIL MORNING DAWNED...AND ONE NIGHTMARE WAS SUPPLANTED BY ANOTHER!

SO! STILL LAYING AROUND YOU LAZY WENCH! YOU HAVE MUCH TO DO TODAY!

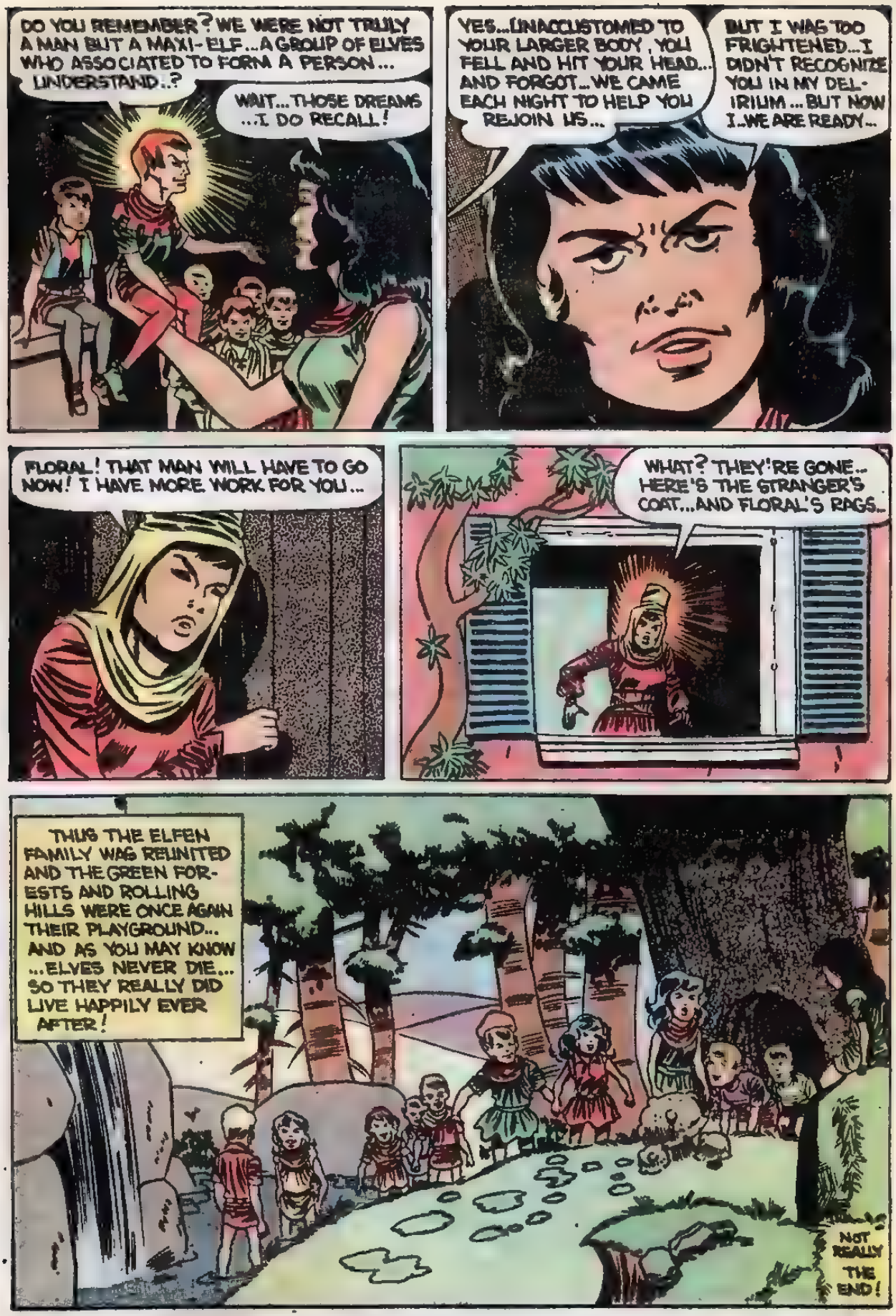

THE TOLL OF FLORALS NIGHTLY TORMENT BEGAN TO SHOW... HER FACE GREW WAN AND HER STRENGTH WAS FAILING...
CLUMSY OAF!
(ULP!) SORRY.

...BUT HER YEARNING FOR THE FIELDS AND BROOKS OF THAT GREEN FOREST BECAME EVER MORE INTENSE!
I JUST KNOW IF I COULD GET OUT, I'D BE ALL RIGHT...
FLORAL!


SHIRKING AGAIN ARE YOU? WELL, YOU HAVE A VISITOR. HE SEEMS TO KNOW YOU. I'LL NOT HAVE HIM STAY MORE THAN A MINUTE KEEPING YOU FROM YOUR CHORES...

FLORAL LOOKED ON WITH RAPT ASTONISHMENT AS ELVES EMERGED FROM THE TALL STRANGERS BODY... LEAVING HIM A LITTLE SHORTER, SMALLER...

HER FEAR WAS SLOWLY REPLACED WITH UNDERSTANDING AS MORE AND MORE SMILING LITTLE ELVES APPEARED, AND THE TALL STRANGER WAS BIT BY BIT, REDUCED TO NOTHINGNESS...


DO YOU REMEMBER? WE WERE NOT TRULY A MAN BUT A MAXI-ELF...A GROUP OF ELVES WHO ASSOCIATED TO FORM A PERSON... UNDERSTAND..?
WAIT...THOSE DREAMS ...I DO RECALL!
YES...UNACCUSTOMED TO YOUR LARGER BODY, YOU FELL AND HIT YOUR HEAD... AND FORGOT...WE CAME EACH NIGHT TO HELP YOU REJOIN US...
BUT I WAS TOO FRIGHTENED...I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU IN MY DELIRIUM...BUT NOW I..WE ARE READY...
FLORAL! THAT MAN WILL HAVE TO GO NOW! I HAVE MORE WORK FOR YOU...
WHAT? THEY'RE GONE... HERE'S THE STRANGER'S COAT...AND FLORAL'S RAGS...
THUS THE ELFEN FAMILY WAS REUNITED AND THE GREEN FORESTS AND ROLLING HILLS WERE ONCE AGAIN THEIR PLAYGROUND... AND AS YOU MAY KNOW ...ELVES NEVER DIE... SO THEY REALLY DID LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
NOT REALLY THE END!

CONGRATULATIONS, BARON, ON BEING GIVEN YOUR OWN BOOK. WHAT'S IT CALLED?
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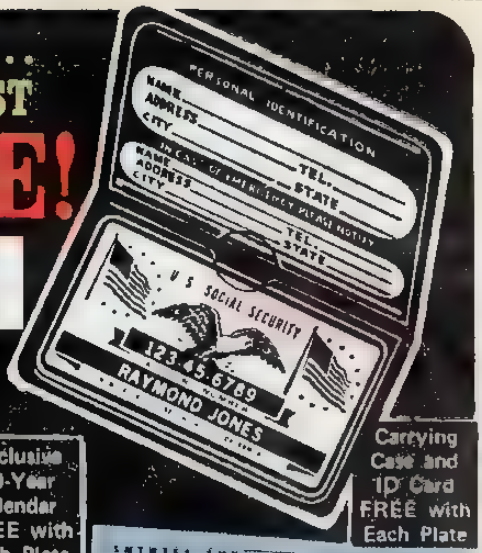

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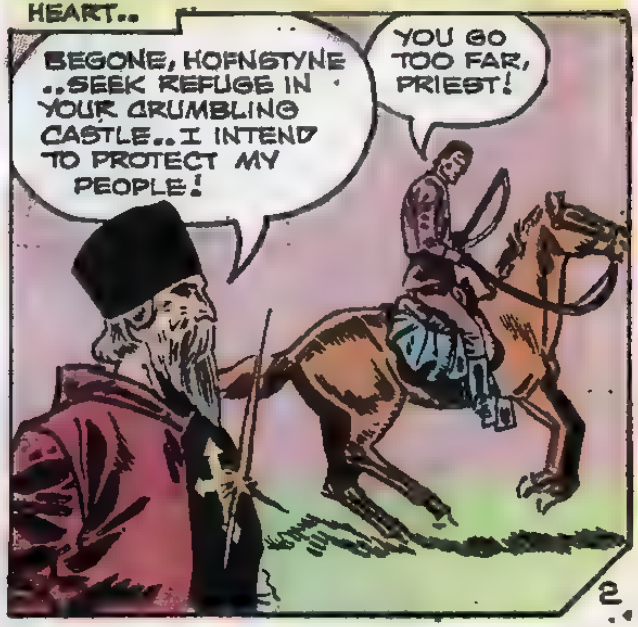
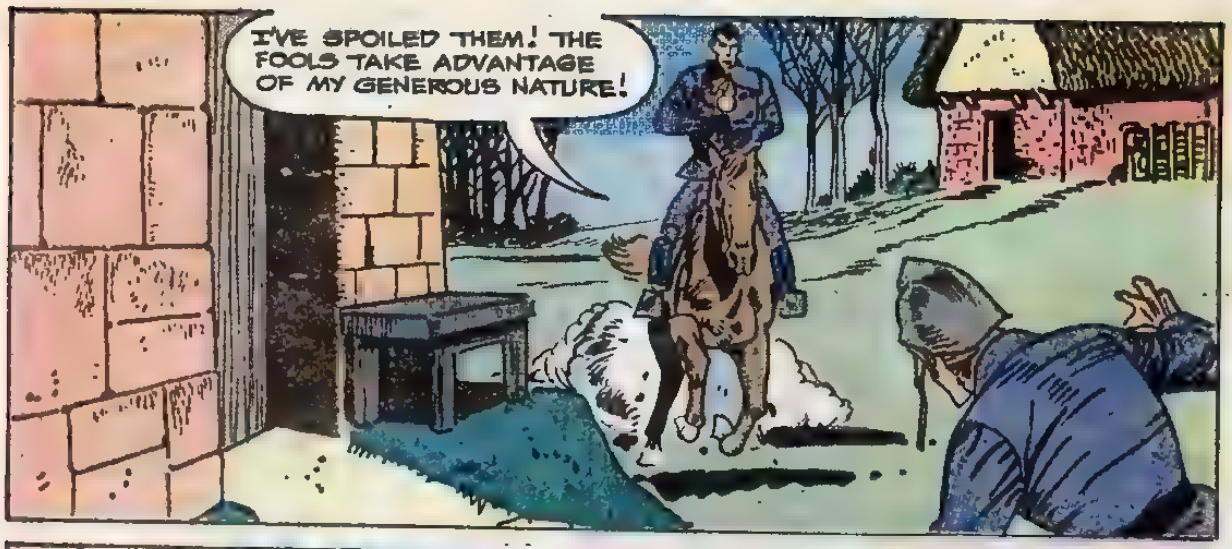
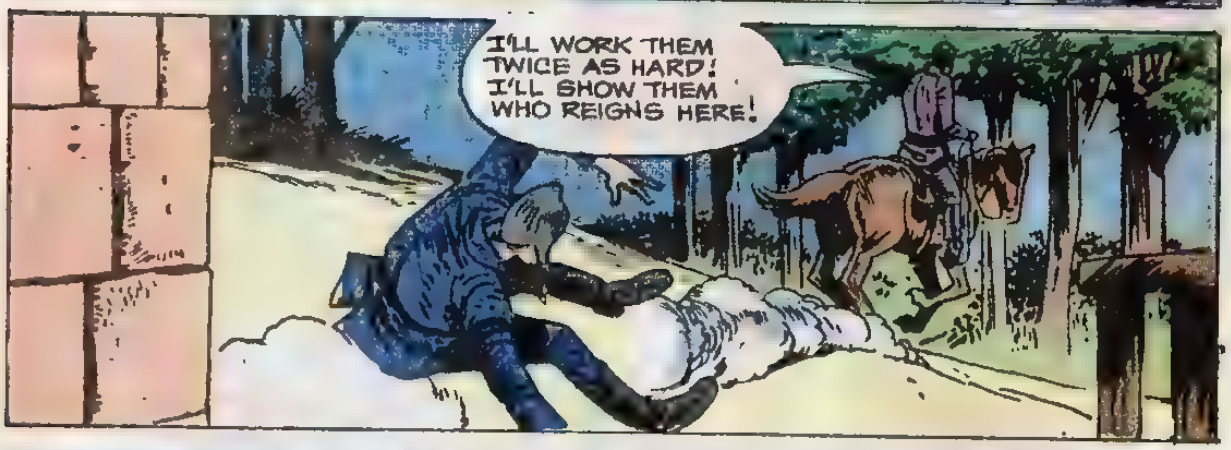
"THE BARON DU MORT", THEY CALLED HIM IN THE BALKAN MOUNTAINS WHERE THE BARON HEGYI LIPZIG HOFNSTYNE RULED FROM HIS MEDIEVAL CASTLE! THE VILLAGE HUDDLED IN THE VALLEY BENEATH THE ROCKY PEAK ON WHICH THE CASTLE BROODED OVER THE BARON'S DOMAIN.. AND THE PEASANTS WHO WORKED THE BARON'S LANDS WHISPERED TO EACH OTHER THAT HEGYI HOFNSTYNE ....SUFFERED FROM THE FAMILY CURSE.... VAMPIRISM! THE FACTS BORE OUT THEIR BELIEFS!
THE Lonely VAMPIRE
EDITOR GEO. WILDMAN
SCRIPT JOE GILL •
ART PAT BOYETTE /•
THEY FOUND ARTUR RUSK'S BODY IN THE MORNING... DEAD.. DRAINED OF BLOOD, AND THE VILLAGE PRIEST WAS SUMMONED TO GIVE HIS BLESSINGS TO THIS LATEST VICTIM OF THE VAMPIRE!
...FORGIVEN FOR HIS SINS! NOW, HE MUST BE BURIED BEFORE SUNUP.. ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT RITES OF THE CHURCH IN SUCH CASES!
D-6544
1.

FATHER LUCOSKA, WHY DO YOU ENCOURAGE THESE LAZY DOLTS TO NEGLECT THEIR WORK? THE SUN IS ALMOST UP. THEY SHOULD BE WORKING IN MY FIELDS.
THIS WILL BE A DAY OF MOURNING, EXCELLENCY!
YOU DEFY ME, PRIEST? THIS IS MY VALLEY! THIS IS A PLACE WHERE MY SERFS WORK!
PERHAPS YOU ARE EXEMPT FROM NATURAL LAW, BARON! BUT WE ARE NOT! AND WHEN ONE OF US DIES.. THE OTHERS MOURN!

THE WHIP NEVER FELL.. FOR FATHER LUCOSKA HAD A SHIELD THE BARON COULD NOT DENT.. PERHAPS IT WAS THE PRIEST'S FAITH.. OR THE CROSS WHICH STRUCK FEAR INTO THE BARON'S HEART..



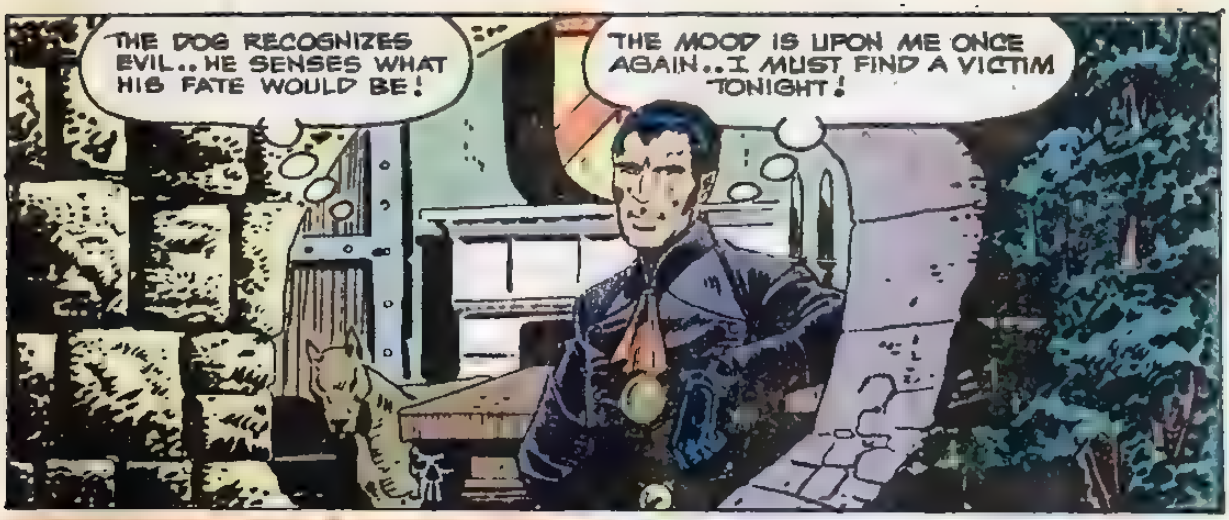

I'VE SPOILED THEM! THE FOOLS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY GENEROUS NATURE!


I'LL WORK THEM TWICE AS HARD! I'LL SHOW THEM WHO REIGNS HERE!

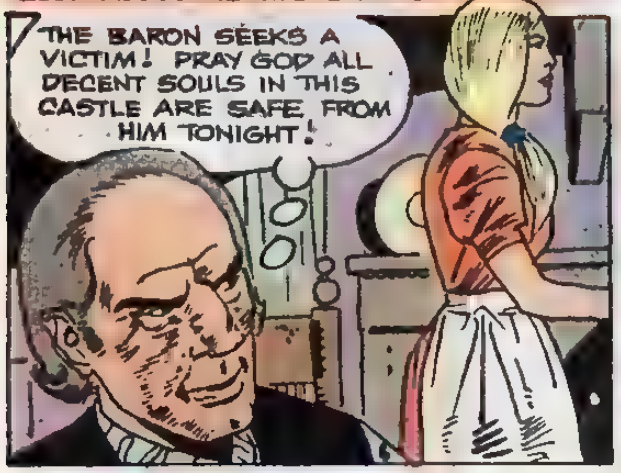
AT HIS CASTLE, TERRIFIED SERVANTS BROUGHT HIM RARE WINES AND RICH FOODS BUT, AS USUAL, HE ATE LITTLE...
DID THE BARON EAT HIS DINNER, HUGO?
NYET! LOCK YOURSELF IN YOUR ROOM, CHILD, AND PRAY! TONIGHT, GREAT EVIL WILL BE ABROAD IN OUR VALLEY!

YOU DARE SNARL AT ME, YOU STUPID CANINE!

WE ARE BOTH PREDATORY... BUT I AM FAR DEADLIER THAN YOU!



THE BARON'S FIRST THOUGHTS WERE OF HIS SERVANTS.. PARTICULARY THE YOUNG, INNOCENT MAIDEN WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN ADDED TO HIS STAFF!



THE VAMPIRE BATS... THE MUTANTS OF MY FORMER VICTIMS.. WHO NOW FLY IN THEIR VAIN SEARCH FOR FOOD WHICH IS BECOMING HARDER TO FIND... FOR THEM!
THE VAMPIRE KNEW HE WOULD FIND A VICTIM IN THE VILLAGE! HE NEVER FAILED BEFORE ..FRAIL DOORS, UNBARRED WINDOWS OR FOOLS WHO WANDERED OUT AFTER NIGHTFALL..ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HE WOULD SATISFY HIS HIDEOUS CRAVING!
5

HA! SOME FOOL LEFT THE DOOR AJAR!
HELLO? IS ANYONE HOME?
THE HOUSE IS EMPTY!
I HAVE SEARCHED A DOZEN HOUSES..THEY ARE ALL EMPTY!
FATHER LUCOSKA IS NOT AT THE CHURCH! THEY HAVE FLED THE VILLAGE..BUT I HAVE GUARDS AT THE PASS..THEY WILL TURN THEM BACK!
6

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

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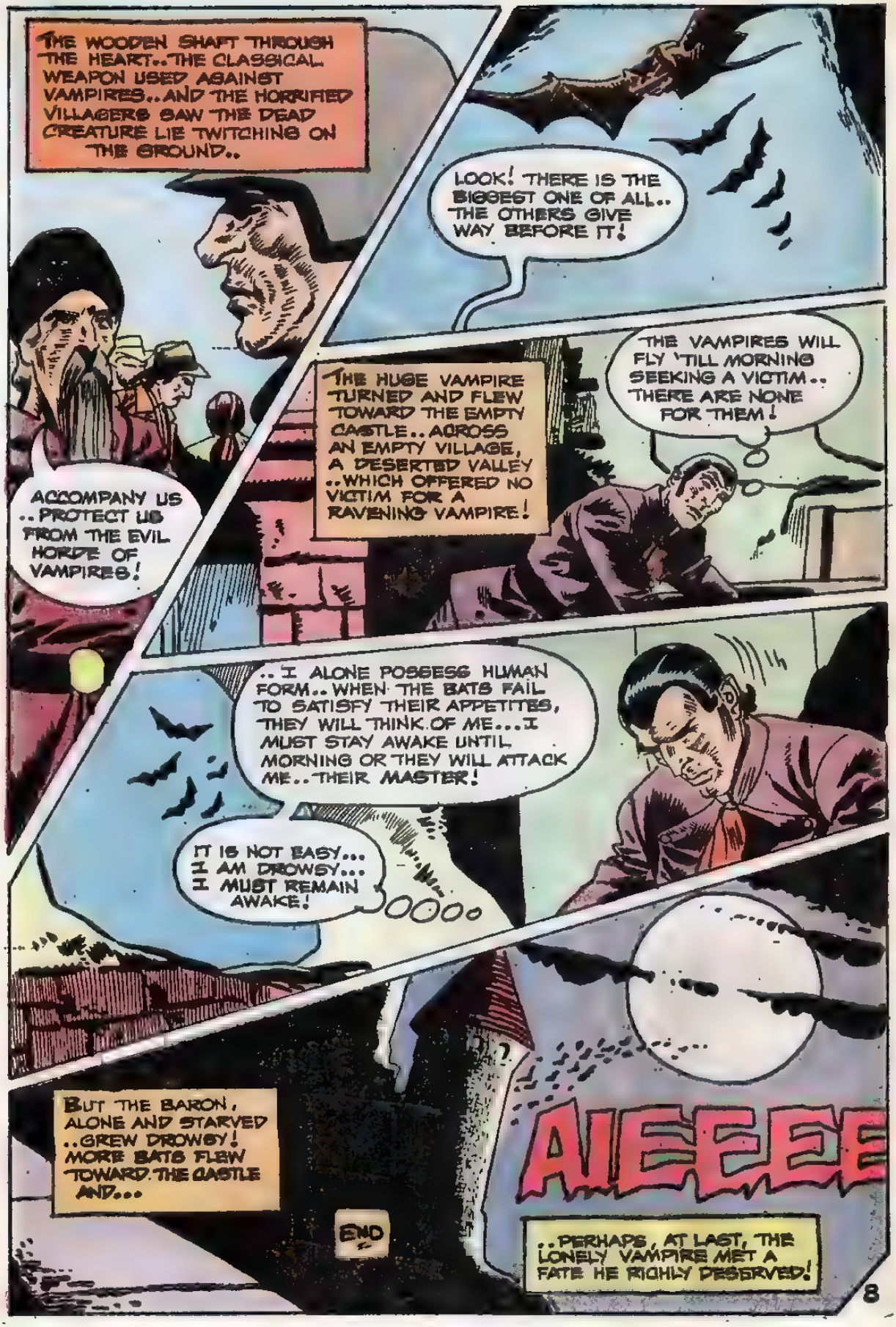
HALT! YOU CANNOT TRAVEL THIS ROAD WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM HIS EXCELLENCY, THE BARON!
WE MUST LEAVE THE VALLEY, SERGEANT!
THIS VALLEY IS ACCURSED, SERGEANT! THE VAMPIRE BATS EVEN NOW FLY ABOVE THE VILLAGE ..THE BARON HIMSELF IS A VAMPIRE! WE NEED YOU AND YOUR COMRADES WITH US.. AND WE MUST HURRY!
LET THE BARON HAVE THE VALLEY! WE SHALL FIND HOMES IN ANOTHER PLACE WHERE EVIL DOES NOT RULE!
HEAR THEM! THE BATS HAVE FOUND US! USE THAT CROSSBOW!
HURRY..IF YOU POSSESS SKILL WITH THAT WEAPON..USE IT!
SPLANG


THE WOODEN SHAFT THROUGH THE HEART..THE CLASSICAL WEAPON USED AGAINST VAMPIRES..AND THE HORRIFIED VILLAGERS SAW THE DEAD CREATURE LIE TWITCHING ON THE GROUND..
LOOK! THERE IS THE BIGGEST ONE OF ALL.. THE OTHERS GIVE WAY BEFORE IT!
ACCOMPANY US ..PROTECT US FROM THE EVIL HORDE OF VAMPIRES!
THE HUGE VAMPIRE TURNED AND FLEW TOWARD THE EMPTY CASTLE..ACROSS AN EMPTY VILLAGE, A DESERTED VALLEY ..WHICH OFFERED NO VICTIM FOR A RAVENING VAMPIRE!
THE VAMPIRES WILL FLY 'TILL MORNING SEEKING A VICTIM.. THERE ARE NONE FOR THEM!
..I ALONE POSSESS HUMAN FORM..WHEN THE BATS FAIL TO SATISFY THEIR APPETITES, THEY WILL THINK OF ME...I MUST STAY AWAKE UNTIL MORNING OR THEY WILL ATTACK ME..THEIR MASTER!
IT IS NOT EASY... I AM DROWSY... I MUST REMAIN AWAKE!
OOOO
BUT THE BARON, ALONE AND STARVED ..GREW DROWSY! MORE BATS FLEW TOWARD THE CASTLE AND...
END
AIEEEE
..PERHAPS, AT LAST, THE LONELY VAMPIRE MET A FATE HE RIGHLY DESERVED!

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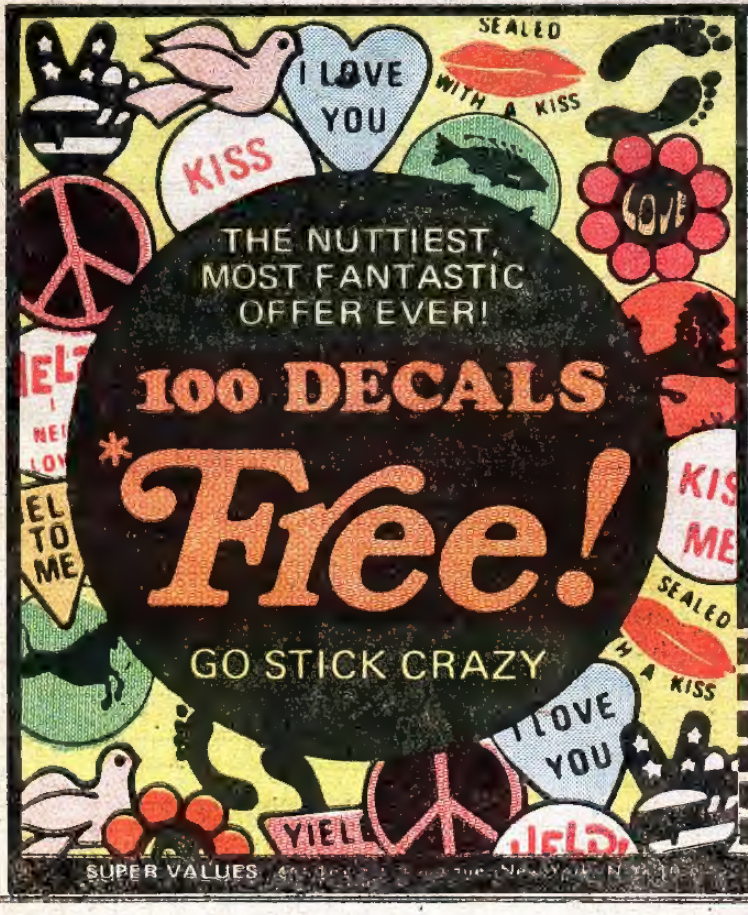

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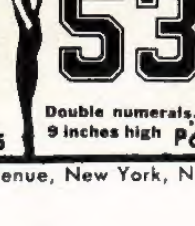

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